

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-6, and 8-12, and 14-19 are now pending in the application. Claims 1, 8, 12, and 14 are now amended. Claims 2, 7, and 13 are cancelled. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein. Amendments to the Claims are fully supported in the specification, and no new matter has been added.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 3, and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Tuli (U.S. Pat. No. 6,256,651). Claims 1, 3-6 and 8-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Sarin.

With respect to Claim 1, Neither Sarin nor Tuli show, teach or suggest work positions that are represented by at least one icon that corresponds to one or more workers within one of a plurality of groups within an organization that work on one or more steps. Amendments to Claim 1 are fully supported by Paragraph [0025]. No new matter has been added.

As best understood by Applicants, Sarin is directed to a process that supports collaborative work including a graphical interface. Administrators and workers use the interface to access, perform, and collaborate on tasks. Tasks are routed to the workers assigned to them. Each job has a set of roles for workers assigned to tasks that are illustrated in a chart form in Figure 1. Sarin, however, does not teach, disclose, or suggest that groups of an organization may be represented by icons as in Claim 1.

The icons of Claim 1 provide representations of groups that have tasks to be completed. For example, highlighted icons for incomplete tasks provide both management and workers with a simplified view of the status of a project so that workers and management will know where to focus efforts. Further, with the claimed multi-level system, the icons may be used to move between levels. The workers are not merely routed relevant information as in Sarin. With the tool of Claim 1, a worker may click on a highlighted icon to find out more information relating to why a portion of the project is incomplete. The icons will also inform groups when their respective parts of the project should be completed (for example when one group depends on a completed task of another group) without having to ask other groups for this information.

As best understood by Applicants, Tuli is directed to management workflow software that includes spreadsheet windows and bar chart windows. A spreadsheet window includes "to-do" items and a timeline. A bar chart window represents the "to-do" items and the timeline in a bar chart. Primary users view the bar charts that indicate progress taken by secondary users according to the timeline. The secondary users may view their respective portions of the project in respective windows. However, Tuli does not teach, disclose, or suggest that the secondary users may be grouped together and that these groups may be represented by icons as in Claim 1. Representing groups as icons allows management to quickly review progress on a project by clicking on the icons without having to request progress reports from the groups.

For anticipation to be present under 35 U.S.C §102(b), there must be no difference between the claimed invention and the reference disclosure as viewed by one skilled in the field of the invention. Scripps Clinic & Res. Found. V. Genentech,

Inc., 18 USPQ.2d 1001 (Fed. Cir. 1991). All of the limitations of the claim must be inherent or expressly disclosed and must be arranged as in the claim. Constant v. Advanced Micro-Devices, Inc., 7 USPQ.2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1988).

Therefore, Claim 1 is allowable for at least the reason that both Sarin and Tuli fail to disclose all the limitations of Claim 1. Claims 8 and 12 are allowable for at least similar reasons as Claim 1. Claims 3-6, 9-11, and 14-19 ultimately depend from Claims 1, 8, and 12 and are allowable for at least similar reasons.

Claims 12-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Shneiderman. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

With respect to Claim 12, Shneiderman does not show, teach or suggest that each of a plurality of major tasks includes a plurality of icons that represent groups within the organization. Members of the plurality of icons are highlighted when respective groups have incomplete tasks. Amendments to Claim 12 are fully supported by Paragraph [0025]. No new matter has been added.

As best understood by Applicants, Shneiderman is directed to a graphical user interface (GUI) that provides visual information to employees that includes employee roles as they relate to a goal. All roles are always visible, and the employees can shrink and expand roles as they view them. Shneiderman does not include highlighting icons that represent groups in an organization when that group has an unfinished task. Highlighting icons, as in Claim 12, allow users a rapid review of a project. This is because if an icon is not highlighted, no one in the group has a task to perform relating to a project. Therefore, a manager may limit inquiries for project status to the groups corresponding to the highlighted icons.

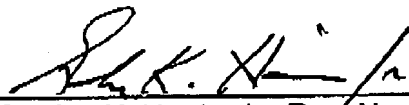
Therefore, Claim 12 is allowable for at least the reason that Shneiderman fails to disclose all the limitations of Claim 12. Claims 14-19 ultimately depend from Claim 12 and are allowable for at least similar reasons.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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